



Section 5: Program Partners

Getting Involved:

The National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health and National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day

What is National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day?

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Center for Mental Health Services is launching an annual national initiative called "National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day." National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day is designated as a day in May of each year to coincide with "May Is Mental Health Month." This day presents an opportunity for SAMHSA and children's mental health initiatives to promote resilience, recovery, and the transformation of mental health services delivery for children and youth with serious mental health needs and their families.

The theme of the inaugural celebration of National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day is "Thriving in the Community." Children's mental health initiatives will hold similar events and other activities throughout the country to build awareness that children's mental health needs are real and that progress is being made toward developing effective strategies for achieving the vision of a life in the community for everyone.

Why is the National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health participating in National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day?

National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day offers the National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health an opportunity to educate people about the services and supports available in their communities, and to show that these services and supports are working. For more than 17 years, the National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health has worked to ensure that children's mental health remains a highly visible, national priority.

National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day gives the National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health the opportunity to show the public that children's mental health needs are real and treatable by leveraging May Is Mental Health Month, national SAMHSA activities, and the activities of other SAMHSA partners.

How can the National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health members get involved?

National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health chapters and statewide organizations can become involved in National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day in several ways. For instance, you could hold a community outreach event that brings together children, youth, and families in need of services that would not otherwise be engaged. Another event may include partnering with other local children's mental health initiatives to engage the media and to educate local policymakers on effective practices for meeting the mental health needs of children, youth, and families.



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In addition, the National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health may want to consider partnering with other child-serving agencies and community-based organizations and distributing green ribbons symbolizing "children's mental health matters." You can use this day as an opportunity to distribute your organization's brochure to schools and other community partners.

Where can I get more information about National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day?

Information and materials on National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day are available online at www.systemsofcare.samhsa.gov. You can also call the National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health at 240-403-1901 or visit our Web site at www.ffcmh.org for more information.